

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, and 34 as follows:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (**Currently amended**) A biological prosthesis comprising an ~~animal~~ aortic valve obtained from an animal, through which aortic valve blood flows in a single direction, the ~~animal~~ aortic valve having a tubular outer wall, and at least one intraparietal reinforcement device comprising a rod implanted in said tubular outer wall of said ~~animal~~ aortic valve, the rod penetrating the thickness of the tubular outer wall of said ~~animal~~ aortic valve and extending substantially parallel to said direction of blood flow.

22. (**Currently amended**) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, there being a plurality of said intraparietal reinforcement devices implanted in said outer tubular wall of said ~~animal~~ aortic valve, in spaced relation to each other.

23. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 22, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement devices are parallel to each other.

24. (**Currently amended**) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said ~~animal~~ aortic valve has commissures that are parallel to said direction and perpendicular to said tubular wall of said ~~animal~~ aortic valve and joined to said tubular wall of said ~~animal~~ aortic valve, said intraparietal reinforcement device being implanted at the juncture of said outer tubular wall of said ~~animal~~ aortic valve and a said commissure.

25. (**Currently amended**) A biological prosthesis according to claim 24, wherein said ~~animal~~ aortic valve has three said commissures and there is a said intraparietal reinforcement device implanted at the juncture of each said commissure with said tubular outer wall of said ~~animal~~ aortic valve.

26. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 25, said intraparietal reinforcement devices being spaced apart from each other.

27. (**Currently amended**) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device is covered with Teflon a fluoropolymer material.

28. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device is straight.

29. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device has a helical shape.

30. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device has a helical surface portion.

31. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device has a pointed end.

32. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device has a cross piece at one end.

33. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 32, wherein said cross piece is a straight bar.

34. (**Currently amended**) A biological prosthesis according to claim 32, wherein said cross piece has the same curvature as said tubular wall of said ~~animal~~ aortic valve.

35. (Previously presented) A biological prosthesis according to claim 32, wherein there is a cross piece at each end of the intraparietal reinforcement device.